Desirable:

(i) Ability to interview people who matter in news;

(ii) Ability to write news stories and report events from the spots; and

(iii) Knowledge of both English and Hindi.

Age: Between 25—40 years.

Exorbitant charges by Cable Operators in Delhi

2334. SHRIBHAGATRAMMANHAR:
SHRIRAJUPARMAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that cable operators in the National Capital Territory of Delhi have started charging exorbitant monthly rates for various channels;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to conduct a survey in the NCT of Delhi to find out the charges of cable operators; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken against the cable operators who are charging exorbitant rates from the public?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The rates of subscription for cable network is purely a contractual affair between the subscriber and cable operators and is market driven. Government does not maintain any record of the rates charged by different cable operators, neither does it propose to conduct any survey on this or regulate the rates of subscription.

Delegations sent abroad for trade agreements

† 2335. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that delegations connected with entertainment industry were sent to foreign countries for trade agreements during the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the names of the countries where these delegations were sent, together with the number of such delegations; and

(c) the names of the countries with whom trade agreements were entered into by them alongwith the details of each of the trade agreements?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) As far as the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is concerned, a FICCI delegation led by the Minister of Information and Broadcasting visited Japan and US in the second week of June 2001 to showcase internationally the achievements and potential of the Indian Entertainment industry and to explore fresh avenues for business development. The members of the delegation extensively interacted with their overseas counterparts for initiating business proposals with them.

Protection to Film Industry

2336. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are committed to save the Indian Film Industry from the clutches of the underworld;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) to what extent these steps have been helpful and welcomed by the film industry?

THE MINISTEROFINFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) "Police" is a State subject as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and, as such, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments.

Nevertheless, in order to facilitate a greater flow of institutional finance to the film industry, Notification dated 16.10.2000 was issued by the Ministry of Finance, whereunder the "Entertainment Industry including films" has been specified as an approved activity for accessing finance under the IDBI Act. The Industrial Development Bank of India and the Reserve Bank of India have also evolved guidelines to enable banks and financial institutions to fund proposals for financing of film production.